

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday-Feb 18
Ashes and Mass- 9:30 am 5:00

Stations of the Cross- February 20,
led by the Liturgy Ministry

Fish Fry to Follow



The Wednesday Night

Men's Bible Study

is

Going Strong!

Each session starts at 5:30 pm (or after Mass (or Communion service) and ends at 7:00 pm. All men of any age are welcome.

NO Religious Education THIS WEEKEND

Religious Education class line-up

K-8 grades Sundays at 10:00 am (after Mass/Breakfast)

High School Youth Group 1st and 3rd Sunday at 10:00 am

OCIA 11:00- 12:00

THE FOOD PANTRY HOURS WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 9 am TO noon



FARMERS STORE
BULK BEYOND ORGANIC FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE
971 Smithville Highway, Sparta, TN 38583
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ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday February 15, 2026



Reflection's

by Fr. Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka, C.S.Sp

Today, the church invites us to reflect on the law of Christ. She urges us to pay attention to what she teaches us. The law of Christ is a divine law. However, it is not opposed to natural law. It is filled with wisdom and gives life to those who are faithful to it. It is a product of God's love for us. Hence, obeying it is a fundamental option for life and happiness.

In today's first reading, God presents us with two options, "life and death." In other words, He gives us the freedom to choose: "If you wish, keep His commandments...Man has life and death before him, whichever he likes, will be given to him." God created us out of his love. To guide us in life, he gave us his Law. Also, he gives us the freedom of choice. To make decisions and choices in life, he also gave us reason to guide us.

Hence, God makes it clear that whatever choice we make in life has its consequences. If we choose to obey his laws, we shall be happy. However, if we make the wrong choice, we shall reap its fruit. Hence, the psalmist reminds us, "They are happy who follow God's Law." This means that as free beings, God never forces us. However, He encourages us to make the right choices by obeying his law, which gives us life and happiness. We often blame God for our mistakes, even when they are a product of our choice.

In the second reading, Paul refers to the law of Christ as wisdom. In other words, obeying the commands of Christ is the wisest thing to do. Hence, it is a mark of wisdom to live by the Law of Christ. Paul differentiates this wisdom from the law of Christ from that which comes from human philosophy. This means that the law of Christ transcends and supersedes the words of men. The wisdom that comes from the Laws of God is divinely inspired, whereas the wisdom of men is mundane and limited. Hence, Jesus says: "What is born of the spirit is spirit, and what is born of the flesh is the flesh." (John 3, 6).

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This week's Major Sponsor 971 Smithville Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583 Tel:(931) 738-3838



PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9: a.m. - 12 p.m.

Telephone:

(931) 738-2140

Visit Our Website

Website:

www.standrewsparta.com

Please send bulletin changes, ads or announcements 2 weeks ahead to: bulletinsacc@gmail.com



Pastor:

Rev. Father Emmanuel Dirichukwu
pastor@standrewsparta.com

Samantha Faust

Parish Co-Ordinator
parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com

Debi Donovan

Assistant Parish Co-Ordinator
parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com

Elizabeth Bates OCDS

Director of Religious Education
religiouseducation@standrewsparta.com

Marleen Loff Co-Ordinator
Our Home Our Family Outreach
StandrewCO Outreach@yahoo.com

PARISH DEACONS

Robert "Bob" Graham
Stephen "Steve" AuBuchon



Baptism:

Please contact
The Parish office about the birth of your child.

Reconciliation:

Wednesdays 4:30-5:00
Saturdays at 3:30-4:00
and by appointment.

Marriage:

Please contact the Parish office at least 4 months in advance for information and scheduling

Anointing of the Sick and homebound:

Please contact the Parish Office for information on our Ministry of Care.

Father Emmanuel is

available to hear confessions on Saturdays from 3:30pm to 4pm and on Wednesday from 4:30 pm to 5 pm. Other confession times may be arranged directly with Father.

HALTED IN JANUARY



If you are a new parishioner, you are invited to stop by or telephone the parish office to register and let us know how we may be of service to you. Please call the church office (931) 738-2140

If you have new information, such as a change of address or phone numbers, or if you are moving from the parish, please call the Parish office at (931) 931-738-2140

Please visit the parish website:

and sign up to receive the weekly email newsletter and parish-wide emails.

www.standrewsparta.com

FIND IT EASY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE!

Please like and Follow our church Facebook page: [St Andrew Catholic Church-Sparta, TN](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewCatholicChurch-Sparta,TN)

Any parish members who wish to join the Knights are welcome to talk with any active member to sign up.

THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS MEMBER!
JUST ASK ONE!



THE ST. ANDREW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY

Fried Fish, Fries, Hushpuppies, Coleslaw, Drinks & Dessert

FRI, FEB 20 • 5:30PM

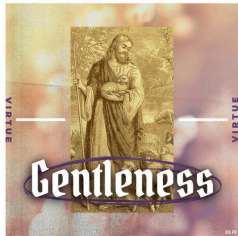
\$15 - Adults
\$8 - Kids Ages 5-12

829 VALLEY VIEW DRIVE, SPARTA, TN

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring breakfast Sunday, March 1, with the monthly meeting to follow!



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16
Farmers' Storehouse is a major sponsor of our bulletin.



VIRTUES, EXPLAINED
AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WE ARE COMMANDED TO "ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO OFFER AN EXPLANATION... TO JUSTIFY THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU"

BUT THE SUCCESS OF THAT EVANGELISM LINGERS ENTIRELY ON THE VERY NEXT INSTRUCTIONS THIS PASSAGE CONTAINS: "HOWEVER, DO SO WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT" (1 PETER 3:15).

THE WORD "GENTLENESS" HAS COME TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SOFTNESS AND FRAGILITY. BUT THERE IS NO VIRTUE THAT REQUIRES GREATER STRENGTH. AS ONE OF THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO "REVEALS TO MEN WHO JESUS IS" (CCC 182). IN CULTIVATING A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS, WE MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLE CHRIST, WHO WAS UNFAINTLY GENTLE, EVEN IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE AND DEATH.

"EVERY VIRTUE IS A GOOD THING, BUT MOST OF ALL GENTLENESS AND MEekNESS," SAID ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. "THIS SHOWS US MEN; THIS MAKES US TO DIFFER FROM WILD BEASTS; THIS FITS US TO BE WITH ANGELS"

reflection continued from the front page

Today's gospel from Matthew has provoked much debate among biblical scholars about what Christ meant when he says: "I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it." Jesus is right when he says this. The Old Testament stands firm, fulfilled, and has reached its perfection in Christ. The Greek word for "fulfill" is "pleroo." It also means "to full" or "to complete." In light of today's gospel, it means to fulfill what was predicted in the Old Testament. Christ fulfilled the Law (Torah) through the sacrifice of himself. Therefore, He is now the fullness of the Law. To obey him is to observe the Law.

Therefore, Christ's treaty was against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the Sadducees of this present age. This is because they interpret the law falsely to the detriment of the people. It is a treaty against fake prophets and teachers who falsely declare, "thus says the Lord," to intimidate and exploit people. It is a treaty against those who make life difficult for others in God's name while they have no regard for the law of Christ.

Finally, it is a treaty against the Pharisees of our time, who pay much attention to the letters of the law but neglect the Spirit of the Law. Christ came that we might have life and have it in full. He came that we might be free. He is the fullness of the Law and life. To obey him is to have life and happiness in full.

Peace be with you!

Maranatha!



AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT

Please consider attending Mass on Ash Wednesday. Masses will be held at 9:30 a.m. and the usual 5:00 pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

Also, please bring in last year's palms so that they may be burned for that purpose.

There is a basket at the back of the church, THE NAVE, near the doors.

Please keep in mind:
All donations of the Second Collection goes to our outstanding Outreach Program, unless otherwise stated.



Left- Mark & Mary Cislino with Fr. Cyril

Below: Matt, Heather & Harper Weaver with Fr. Cyril



The Acharya Family Strategizing!

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ST. ANDREW MASS SCHEDULE INTENTIONS AND EVENTS

Saturday February 14, 2026

Adoration 3:00- 4:00
Confession 3:30- 4:00
4:00 Mass **WALTER MANTHEY, R.I.P.**

Sunday February 15, 2026

Adoration 8:-8:30
8:30- Mass INTENTION: FOR THE PARISH
BREAKFAST IS SERVED

Wednesday February 18, 2026

ADORATION: 4:00- 5:00
CONFESSION: 4:30- 5:00
MASS- 9:30 & 5:00
with Distribution of Ashes
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY- 5:30

Thursday February 18, 2026

MASS- 9:30 a.m. **SUE HUBBARD, R.I.P.**

Ministry Schedule

February 14/15

Jim Spa

Monica Jicha

Sondra Tersigni
Marleen Loff

Branton Ferris, Sondra Tersigni
Barbara Leblanc

Jim Spa,
Vols, Knights

Ray Jicha, Don Baird
Knights of Columbus

Month of the Passion of the Lord

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

 Tony and Sondra Tersigni 4th
Joe and Jennifer Hudachek 12th

Birthdays



Cathy Clayton 1st
Terri Sergio 9th
Carole McLeod 11th
Paul Petrick 12th
Marcisa Geer 19th
Jordyn Tamez 21st
Janice Clement 22nd

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

Mary Tersigni R.I.P. 7th
Walter Manthey R.I.P. 14th
Anna Tersigni R.I.P. 18th
Sue Hubbard R.I.P. 19th /26th
Vera Bouton R.I.P. 21st
Theresa Tersigni R.I.P. 25th
Audrey and Steve Stevens R.I.P. 28th



Daily Readings with Saints & Occasions

Prayer Requests

February 16-22

Monday February 16, 2026

Ordinary Weekday

1st Reading: James 1: 1-11
Psalm: Psalms 119: 67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76
Alleluia: John 14: 6
Gospel: Mark 8: 11-13

Tuesday February 17, 2026

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious

1st Reading: James 1: 12-18
Psalm: Psalms 94: 12-13a, 14-15, 18-19
Alleluia: John 14: 23
Gospel: Mark 8: 14-21

Wednesday February 18, 2026

Our Lady of Lourdes

1st Reading: Joel 2: 12-18
Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17
2nd Reading: 2Corinthians 5: 20 - 6:2
Verse Before the Gospel: Psalms 95: 8
Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Thursday February 19, 2026

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Psalm: Psalms 1: 1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4: 17
Gospel: Luke 9: 22-25

Friday February 20, 2026

Friday After Ash Wednesday

Day of Abstinence from Meat (age 14 and up)

1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-9a
Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19
Verse Before the Gospel: Amos 5: 14
Gospel: Matthew 9: 14-15

Saturday February 21, 2026

Saturday After Ash Wednesday/ Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor

1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 9b-14
Psalm: Psalms 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Verse Before the Gospel: Ezekiel 33: 11
Gospel: Luke 5: 27-32

Sunday February 22, 2026

1st Sunday of LENT

1st Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7
Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17
2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19
Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4: 4b
Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11



Katie Charfauros
Payton Newman
Jim Winton
Danny Gutierrez
Art Gutierrez
Linda McGraw
Roseanna Hassett
Elaine Garrett
Heidi Holland
Diane Barry
Verne & Bernice Clapp
John Barry
Clara Magushak
Harry Dennis
Karen Norris
Pat Wilson
Andrzej Konwinski
Anita Borski
Margaret Massa
Anna Barry
Dan Clayton

May the Souls
of all
the Faithful
Departed,
Through the
Mercy of God,
Rest in Peace.
Amen.

Farmers' Storehouse This week's Major Sponsor 971 Smithville Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583 Tel: (931) 738-3838

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